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May 16, 2003

BY HAND

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: D.T.E. 02-84, Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light
Company for Approval of its 2002 Electric Reconciliation

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

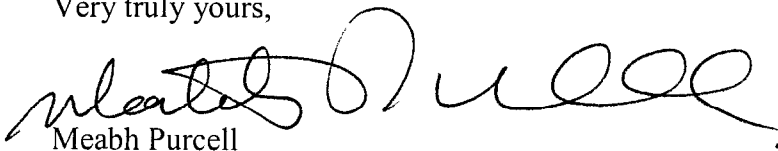
The purpose of this letter is to respond on behalf of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company ("FG&E") to the Motion to Strike Portions of the Company's Reply Brief and Related Affidavit, filed by the Attorney General in this proceeding on May 13, 2003. The Department should disregard the Attorney General's Motion to Strike because the information and the calculations contained in the revised schedules that FG&E submitted immediately after the close of hearings, that are referred to in FG&E's reply brief and in the Affidavit of Mark H. Collin, are in the nature of a routine correction of data already in evidence which is permissible under Department rules and precedent. As the Attorney General noted in his Motion to Strike, the Department routinely permits the record to remain open after the close of hearings for receipt of updated information on certain non-controversial cost of service items. See Re Berkshire Gas Co., D.T.E. 01-56 (2002); Re Fitchburg Gas and Elec. Co., D.T.E. 02-24/25 (2002); Re Blackstone Gas Co., D.T.E. 01-50 (2001); Boston Gas Co., D.P.U. 88-67 (1989) (providing for the "Department's practice to permit updating of routine information already provided on the record -- for example, the most recent property tax bills -- or to permit filing responses to outstanding record requests.").

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As FG&E explained in its Motion, in Mr. Collin's Affidavit, and in the Company's reply brief, the forecasted load factor attributed to the G-3 Class that resulted in an apparent discrepancy of \$450,000 and reflected in Exh. MHC-1, Sch. MHC-4, page 5 was erroneous. To ensure that the Department would make its determination based on a complete and accurate record, FG&E submitted the revised schedules to introduce the correct forecasted discrepancy. Exh. Supplemental Schedules. Thus, by revising its schedules, FG&E is not raising a new argument as the Attorney General alleges, but is simply correcting a numerical calculation in the record evidence previously presented to the Department. In fact, FG&E has an affirmative obligation to ensure that the information it provides the Department and the parties is accurate. 220 CMR 1.06 (c)(5) (Parties are under continuing obligation to amend earlier response if it obtains new information that response was incorrect or incomplete when made). This obligation must logically extend to pre-filed testimony and schedules, as well as responses to information requests.

Accordingly, FG&E respectfully requests that the Department reject the Attorney General's Motion to Strike, and grant FG&E's April 9, 2003 Motion to admit the revised schedules, Exh. Supplemental Schedules.

Very truly yours,



Meabh Purcell

/jss

cc: D.T.E. 02-84 - Service List
BS88814

CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have served a copy of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Company's Response to the Motion to Strike Portions of the Company's Reply Brief and Related Affidavit filed by the Attorney General on May 13, 2003, on each of the individuals on the service list on file with the Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy.

Dated at Boston, Massachusetts, this 16th day of May, 2003.



Meabh Purcell

BS88857